

Department of Homeland Security

Administrative Record Support

MD 5100.1, Environmental Planning Program

About the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP)

**Mission Statement** To operate a federal training center specializing in providing advanced and hands-on training to America's federal, state, local, tribal, and parish emergency responders, to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from terrorist acts, especially those involving weapons of mass destruction or hazardous materials.

### **Message from the Director F. Marion Cain III**

**History** Events over the past few years have shown that terrorist, foreign and domestic, are willing to attack American interests at home and abroad. Terrorists now have access to a broad array of advanced technologies and lethal materials worldwide. International and domestic terrorism can strike any target at any time, and terrorists are no longer limited to conventional weapons. There is concern that chemical and biological agents are weapons of choice.

On June 1, 1998, the Center for Domestic Preparedness was officially established under the Department of Justice as a Training Center for Emergency Responders to terrorist acts. Under the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the Center became part of the newly created Department of Homeland Security.

Since the Center opened and began training operations on June 1, 1998, emergency responders have received invaluable training which will assist them in dealing with a terrorist attack. They gain critical skills and necessary confidence which enables them to effectively respond to a Weapons of Mass Destruction incident.

The Center for Domestic Preparedness, US Department of Homeland Security, is charged with training emergency responders: law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical personnel and others to deal with a terrorist attack involving Weapons of Mass Destruction and incidents involving hazardous materials. An awesome task when you realize there are more than 11 million emergency responders and other personnel in this country that would need training to deal with terrorist incidents.